

The wage gap hurts families' ability to pay for basics like groceries, child care, health care. Today 41 percent of women are heads of households and are sole income earners. We're in a recession. People have lost their homes right now. The gap continues to be there. Gas prices continue to go up.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1338, and allow for all women to receive fair treatment and equal opportunity.

DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION

(Mr. LATTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, the United States is at a crucial point in terms of domestic energy production. With estimates that China and India combined will consume more energy than the United States by 2015, we must take a serious look at our domestic energy production and continue to reduce our dependence on Middle Eastern oil.

China's increasing offshore energy production to reduce its own dependence on foreign oil, growing their production an average of 15.3 percent per year with plans to make offshore production China's largest source of oil by doubling production by 2010.

The current congressional leadership opposes domestic offshore energy exploration and production, making America the only developed nation in the world to restrict access to offshore energy supplies.

China has invested \$24 billion in coal liquefaction technology, while current congressional leadership continues to exclude coal from their energy policy, even though it is the most abundant and efficient fuel source found in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on about our energy crisis, but it's time for this Congress to get serious about our domestic energy production.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of every working woman who faces pay discrimination in the workplace. Last year the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 to drastically limit women's access to seek justice for pay discrimination based on gender, requiring workers to file a pay discriminate claim within a 6-month period only, regardless of how long the pay inequity goes on.

The House has passed legislation to right this wrong, and the other body will follow this week. While a weakening economy weighs heavily on women and families across America, and when women are still only earning 77 percent of what men earn, this is not the time to curtail women's access to fair pay.

That is why this Congress must pass into law the Paycheck Fairness Act.

With the support of more than 227 cosponsors, my bill would help women confront discrimination in the workplace, give teeth to the Equal Pay Act by prohibiting employers from retaliating against employees who share salary information with their coworkers, allow women to sue for punitive damages and the recovery of back pay and create a new grant program to help strength the negotiation skills of girls and women.

I call on the House to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act because every woman deserves equal pay for equal work.

MEDICAID SAFETY NET ACT

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues today to support H.R. 5613, the Medicaid Safety Net Act. There's a lot of misinformation about what this bill does. Here are the facts.

When CMS put forth regulations to cut Medicaid service to save money, Mr. BARTON's and Mr. DINGELL's leadership not only prevented its cuts, but we actually saved more money than the cuts did.

We can't keep doing business in Washington the same way. Cutting services to save money the easy way, but not always the right way. We cannot cut programs for seniors on fixed incomes, for disabled children, for the medically needy.

Without this bill, North Carolina loses \$2.5 billion, Missouri \$1.4 billion, Florida \$665 million. But with this bill we provide health care and cut waste, fraud and abuse.

I encourage the President to look past the rhetoric, withdraw his veto threat and encourage my colleagues to support this bill and support families in need.

NOVEMBER IS THE ANSWER

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this morning I had a group of students from Hawkins Mill Elementary School in Memphis tour the Capitol, inner city young children. And I thought about what type of future they'll have and how Congress is affecting it.

I thought of the children's health plan that would give six million more children around this country health care, and the fact that the President vetoed their opportunity to have health care.

I thought about No Child Left Behind to help them in education. But that bill has been \$50 billion underfunded, and basically teaches teachers to teach a test and not to teach these children.

I thought about the war in Iraq and JOHN MCCAIN's thought that it's going to be a hundred-year war, and how

many of them might have to go to Iraq and maybe lose their lives and continue to suck moneys out of our economy and hinder their future with a budget that is out of balance and that they'll have to pay for.

Mr. Speaker, I'm concerned about the children at Hawkins Mill Elementary and all the other children and the future we leave them.

Mr. Speaker, November's the answer. We need to have a new Senate and a new President that think about the children and the future.

MICHIGAN STUDENTS FLEX INNOVATIVE MUSCLE

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, since the time of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford, the people from the great State of Michigan have been at the forefront of technical innovation, and that tradition continues today, this time led by the Thunder Chickens.

And you might ask, who are the Thunder Chickens? Well, they're a great group of students from the Utica Community Schools in my district who were part of a winning team at the First National Robotics Championship held this past weekend at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

Out of 340 competitors, the Thunder Chickens team built a robot that won a race, ran around a track, knocked plastic balls off a 6-foot overpass, picked the balls up and threw them back over an overpass. This was a robot that they designed.

The Thunder Chickens victory proves once again that the innovative spirit is in the State of Michigan. My congratulations to the mentor, the team's lead engineer, and to the entire team for a job well done. And I have no doubt that in the future we will see some of these Thunder Chickens grow up to be engineers who invent the fuel efficient vehicles of the future.

So when you think of Michigan innovators in the future, remember Henry Ford and Thomas Edison, and now think of the Thunder Chickens from Utica Community Schools.

□ 1030

REGULATING THE DISTRIBUTION OF HANDGUNS

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, there's entirely too much violence in our country perpetrated by the use of handguns. I come from a rather large city with about 3 million people, but I can tell you there were 22 shootings in Chicago over the weekend. Six individuals were actually killed because of the presence of handguns.

We must find a better way to regulate the distribution of handguns so that kids growing up can learn to practice peace and not war.

IN MEMORY OF KYLE WILKS

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of America's bravest, one of America's finest, Kyle Wilks from the Third District of Arkansas.

Kyle, a marine from Rogers, Arkansas, serving with the II Marine Expeditionary Force stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, died last week. He was in a convoy of 36 vehicles in the Kandahar province of Afghanistan when his vehicle was struck by an IED.

In 2004, Kyle entered the Marine Corps to help others. His devotion to his friends, his family, and his unit was selfless. The commitment Kyle showed his fellow soldiers and his country is something we can all be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, Kyle Wilks is a true American hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. I ask my colleagues to keep the Wilks' family and his friends in their thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.

WE NEED TO SUPPORT CHAIRMAN FRANK'S COMMITTEE

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Banking Committee under the leadership of Chairman BARNEY FRANK who, this week, will take us in the direction that this Congress needs to lead the country. They will mark up a bill that will establish a substantial pool of funds that will enable local governments to be able to purchase foreclosed properties and turn them into affordable housing for families desperately in need of housing they can afford in this economy. They will also help families that are on the cusp of losing their homes to be able to keep their homes. This is so important.

Mr. Speaker, as many as 7 million families will lose their homes by the end of this year. In fact, mortgage defaults are up by 72 percent. Local governments will lose \$7 billion in property tax revenue that they desperately need for public safety and roads and all of the other municipal services that are so important.

We are on the cusp of a recession. We need to act quickly and comprehensively to do the right thing. Chairman FRANK's committee is doing the right thing. We need to support them.

WHAT ARE THE DEMOCRATS' SOLUTIONS TO HIGH GAS PRICES?

(Mr. WESTMORELAND asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I want to read a few floor comments, if I could.

This one is made July 28, 2005, in a floor statement by Congressman JIM MCDERMOTT:

"Republicans have written a bill that favors corporate America over mainstream America. Sixty dollars for a barrel of oil that breaks the backs and the budgets of mainstream Americans is a scandal."

Mr. Speaker, I wonder what Mr. MCDERMOTT thinks about \$119 a barrel of oil.

Mr. Speaker, on April 20, 2005, in a floor statement, then minority leader NANCY PELOSI said this:

"The Republican energy bill is warmed-over stew of old provisions and outdated policies. Democrats have better ideas."

Mr. Speaker, I challenge the Democrats to bring forth these better ideas because since the Democrats have taken control, gas prices are up over \$1.25 a gallon.

Mr. Speaker, May 23, 2006, in a floor statement by Mr. FRANK PALLONE:

"As Americans prepare to travel this weekend for the Memorial Day holiday, they should know that Democrats are offering real solutions."

Mr. PALLONE, we need to see those solutions.

TIME TO ACT ON THE HIGH PRICE OF OIL

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, it's time for the President to act. Record high prices for gasoline and diesel fuels are crippling our economy and taking our hard-earned money and putting it into the bank accounts of Big Oil and market speculators. The President must take action today to provide relief for small businesses and ordinary people who are fighting just to keep their heads above water.

With the price of diesel fuel hitting \$4 per gallon and the strategic petroleum reserve at 95 percent full, it's time for action. The petroleum reserve has 695 million gallons within it, approximately the same in August of 2005 when the President released, due to Katrina and due to Hurricane Rita, the oil supplies. According to independent analysts, if we suspend purchasing additional oil into the reserve, it will lower gas prices by 25 cents per gallon. Whose side is this administration on?

Times are tough, and the two things the President can do right now is to cut the cost of fuel at the pump and also to reduce health care costs. Today, I ask the President, again, to join me in working together to put more money in the pockets of ordinary taxpayers instead of Big Oil.

HONORING NORM "JACK" SNOW

(Mr. KUHLE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUHLE of New York. Mr. Speaker, for the past 30 year, Norm "Jack" Snow has been a familiar face in the town of Milo, Yates County, New York, serving as councilman for 12 years before moving into the supervisor position for the last 18 years. Jack has offered his strength, his courage, his convictions to the town of Milo. He announced his retirement at the beginning of this year, much to the dismay of the people he represents.

A native of upstate New York, Jack grew up on a dairy farm walking one mile to a one-room schoolhouse, in which he jokes was "uphill both ways." Jack didn't grow up dreaming of politics but decided he could make a difference in the community that he loved. Besides his 30 years of public service, Jack is an active member in the community serving as the President of the Shrine Club, which enables 700 school children from around the State to attend the Shrine Circus each year.

Jack cites that the reason he stayed in politics for 30 years was because of the terrific people he worked with every day. But it was us who were blessed to work with Jack, and more importantly, blessed to know him. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

RISING GAS PRICES ARE NOT THE SOLUTION AMERICANS WANT FROM THE DEMOCRATS

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, in a press release on April 24, 2006, then Leader PELOSI, now Speaker PELOSI said, Democrats have a commonsense plan to help bring down the skyrocketing cost of gasoline. In an op-ed penned by my friend from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL), he claimed that their success is because Democrats realize the anxiety of stagnating wages, the cost of health care, education, and even gasoline and vowed to address their concerns.

Well, they addressed their concerns. Gas prices are up. When the Democrats took over, gas prices were \$2.33. Now they are \$3.53. We call this the Pelosi Premium. Add the 50 cent gas tax for climate change, consumers would be paying \$4.03. And when gas prices reach \$4 this summer, add 50 cents for climate change; we will be paying \$4.53 for a gallon of gas.

That's not the type of change that the suburbs in America bargained for when they allowed Democrats to get this Chamber.